

From: Al Pierce
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 5:47pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

Personally, I believe that the proposed settlement does little or nothing to change Microsofts' business practices.

I would reccomend that you review their recent purchase of intellectual property from Silicon Graphics Inc. The pertinent point is not the purchase itself, but the leverage it will give Microsoft in forcing hardware vendors to abandon support of an open source graphics standard, OpenGL, in favour of Microsofts' own proprietary graphics engine, Direct X, or similar.

They are simply up to their old tricks, even in the middle of this so called "settlement". Nothing has been settled, except perhaps, the question of whether Microsoft is powerful enough to intimidate even the United States Department of Justice.

I have absolutely no doubt that Microsoft will use any and all means to eliminate any company, technology, or open source solution that they perceive to be an obstacle to their total domination of any market they set their sights on. They have demonstrated this behavior time and time again and will continue to do so until the company is restructured such that it can no longer exert such power over it's competition.

Splitting up the company is the only sensible remedy, and the amount of money, certainly in the billions of dollars, that Microsoft has cost American industry due to the shoddy performance and security of their software products might serve as an appropriate starting point when considering punishment for their misconduct.

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